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HERZEGOVINA

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-ninth year

Letter dated 17 April 1994 from the Permanent Representative of Bosnia and Herzegovina addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to present to you the attached letter, dated today, from my President to you (see annex).

May I ask for your kind assistance in circulating the present letter and its annex as a document of the forty-eighth session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 42, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Muhamed SACIRBEY
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

ANNEX

Letter dated 17 April 1994 from the President of Bosnia and Herzegovina addressed to the Secretary-General

I write to you at noon (Central European Time) on 17 April 1994. The news I am receiving from Gorazde reports that the city is in agony.

For the past 20 days, Karadzić's Serbs and units of the Yugoslav army have brutally attacked this city, which has been under siege for 10 months.

For the last 20 days a surreal game has overtaken the situation, one where truth is suppressed and voices appealing for help have been muffled, and efficient enforcement mechanisms have been crippled, and so the protected "safe areas" are the most unprotected places on Earth.

The organization that you are leading proclaimed the free territory of Gorazde a United Nations protected area almost a year ago.

Despite the adoption by the Security Council of resolutions 824 (1993) and 836 (1993), these remain no more than dead letters on paper.

Neither you nor your officials have done anything to employ fully the mandate given under these resolutions to protect the people of Gorazde and United Nations credibility alike.

The result is more obvious than it is tragic.

Mr. Secretary-General, Bosnians hold you responsible for this situation.

These are difficult times, Bosnians are bleeding and there is no time left for diplomatic evasiveness.

If Gorazde falls, I believe that your sense of moral responsibility would lead you to resign from your position of Secretary-General of the United Nations.

That is the minimum that you can do for the suffering people whose two years of pain have been met only by indifference.

(Signed) Alija IZETBEGOVIĆ